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I.   AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listed below are the changes made to the claims, in which the insertions are underlined and deletions are shown by strikethrough. The listing of claims below replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. The listing of claims presents each claim with its respective status shown in parentheses.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.   (Previously Presented) A distributed file storage system comprising:

a set of storage modules in communication with each other, the set including:

a first storage module including a processing module;

a second storage module including a processing module;

a third storage module including a processing module; and

a fourth storage module including a processing module;

a file stored on the distributed file storage system;

a first file portion of the file comprising a first set of file data stored in the first storage module;

a second file portion of the file comprising a second set of file data stored in the second storage module, wherein the second set of file data is different from the first set of file data;

a first metadata related to the location of the file stored on the first storage module, the second storage module, the third storage module, and the fourth storage module;

a second metadata related to the location of the file stored on at least one of the first storage module, the second storage module, the third storage module, and the fourth storage module; and

a switch module in communication with the set of storage modules, the switch module configured to receive a read request for the file stored on the distributed file storage system and to send the read request to any one of the set of storage modules;

each of the set of storage modules capable of using the first metadata to respond to and implement the read request on behalf of the distributed file storage system.

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2. (Previously Presented) The distributed file storage system of Claim 1, further comprising error correction data related to the file, the error correction data stored in the distributed file storage system.

3. (Previously Presented) The distributed file storage system of Claim 2, wherein the error correction data includes parity information.

4. (Previously Presented) The distributed file storage system of Claim 3, wherein the parity information includes parity data blocks and location information indicating where the parity data blocks are stored, wherein such location information may be later used to retrieve the parity blocks, and wherein the second metadata further indicates the location information.

5. (Previously Presented) The distributed file storage system of Claim 2 wherein the error correction data includes redundancy data related to the file, and wherein the second metadata further indicates the location of the redundancy data.

6. (Previously Presented) The distributed file storage system of Claim 5, wherein the first metadata related to the location of the file includes metadata related to the root directory.

7. (Previously Presented) The distributed file storage system of Claim 1, wherein each of the storage modules are configured to receive a request to and initiate the request to move the first file portion in real-time from the first storage module to the third storage module, and to send a request to update the second metadata to indicate the location of the moved first file portion.

8. (Previously Presented) The distributed file storage system of Claim 1, wherein each of the storage modules are configured to receive a request to and initiate the request to replicate the first file portion in real-time and to store the replicated first file portion on the third storage module, and to send a request to update the metadata to indicate the location of the replicated first file portion.

9. (Currently Amended) The distributed file storage system of Claim [[8,]] 1, wherein the second metadata includes metadata related to the locations in which the file data is stored.

10. (Previously Presented) The distributed file storage system of Claim 1, wherein the second metadata includes metadata related to a parent directory of the file.

11. (Previously Presented) The distributed file storage system of Claim 1, further configured to handle more READ requests than WRITE requests.

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12.   **(Previously Presented)** The distributed file storage system of Claim 1, further configured to handle block transactions.

42.   **(Cancelled)**

43.   **(Previously Presented)** The distributed file storage system of Claim 1, wherein the file has been stored on a number of the storage modules of the set of storage modules, wherein the number is determined specifically for the file, and wherein the number is equal to or greater than two.

44. – 61. **(Cancelled)**

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